

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 3, 7, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29 have been amended and claims 1, 2, 4, 22 and 27 have been canceled. As such, claims 3, 5-21, 23-26 and 28-33 are in this application and are presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following comments.

Applicants note that claims 11-20 and 31-33 have been allowed and that claims 4, 7, 9, 10, 22-25 and 27-30 have been objected to as depending on a rejected base claim.

At the outset, Applicants do not agree with the rejection of claims 1, 2, 3, 21 and 26. However, and in the interests of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 3, 21 and 26 to include the requirements of respective dependent claims 4, 22 and 27, which have been canceled. As a result, conforming amendments have been made to claims 7, 23, 24, 28, and 29. Applicants have also canceled claims 1 and 2.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 5-21, 23-26 and 28-33 are in condition for allowance.

As it is believed that all of the objections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney in order to overcome any additional objections that the Examiner might have.

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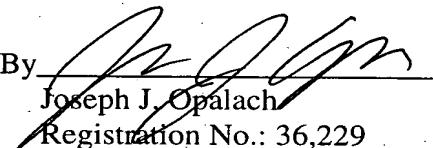
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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment,
the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-0832 therefor.

Respectfully submitted

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